(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that in 2006, there was a proposal to bifurcate the Ministry of Environment and Forests into two - one for environment and the other for wildlife; and

(e) if so, the status of that proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. There was a proposal to have two separate Departments, *viz.* Department of Environment, and Department of Forests and Wildlife. That proposal is under consideration.

Forest clearance for iron ore mining

1262. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private companies which have sought clearance from the Ministry for mining of iron ore from the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Obulapuram Mining Corporation (OMC) also sought forest clearance for iron ore mining in Ananthapur district in the State;

(c) the number of years since the company has been mining the iron ore in the district; and

(d) the history of clearances given to the said company;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) Six private companies have sought forestry clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from the Ministry of Environment and Forests for mining of iron ore in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Yes sir.

(c) M/s Obulapuram Mining Company Pvt. Ltd. has been granted mining lease for mining of iron ore in Ananthapur District from January, 2003 onwards.

(d) The details of mining leases granted to M/s Obulapuram Mining Company Pvt. Ltd. are as under:-

1.	Diversion of 25.98 ha. of forest land for renewal of mining lease in Sy. No. 1/P of Obulapuram village, D. Hirehal Mandal, Ananthapur District.	(i)	The approval was accorded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 19.7.1995 in favour of M/s G. Rammohan Reddy, which was subsequently transferred in favour of M/s Obulapuram Mining Co. Pvt. Ltd. on 15.1.2003.

		(ii) After expiry of this mining lease on 18.07.2005, the same was further renewed for a period of 10 years with effect from 19.07.2007.
2.	Diversion of 68.50 ha of forest land in Sy. N0.1 & 2 of Bellary RF, Kalyandurg Range in Ananthapur District.	The approval was accorded by the MoEF under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 08.01.2007 in favour of M/s Obulapuram Mining Co. Pvt. Ltd.
3.	Diversion of 39.50 ha. of forest land in Compt. No. 695 of Bellary RF, Kalyandurg Range in Ananthapur District.	The approval was accorded by the MoEF under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 05.10.2006 in favour of M/s Obulapuram Mining Co. Pvt. Ltd.

Reduction of green house gases

1263. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to reduce the green house gases to protect our environment; and

(b) the situation and the steps taken in other countries which have to be introduced in our country to reduce the green house effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Government of India is a Party to Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCCC and has set up the National Clean Development Mechanism Authority to accord Host Country Approvals (HCA) to eligible CDM projects as per the requirements of Marrakech Accords. India also has the largest number of registered projects as on date under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol, which reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases. Further, many more projects are in the pipeline.

Although India as a developing country does not have any mitigation commitments, we are following a sustainable development path through range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change, some of which are:

I. ensuring energy conservation and improved energy efficiency in various sectors as well as setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency

II. promoting use of renewable energy

III. power sector reforms and active renewable energy programme

IV. use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport

V. fuel switching to encourage cleaner energy

VI. afforestation and conservation of forests

VII. promotion of clean coal technologies